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STATE
STATUTES
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Reasonable Efforts to Preserve or Reunify Families and Achieve Permanency for Children: Summary of State Laws

Reasonable efforts refer to efforts made by State social services agencies to provide the assistance and services needed to preserve and reunify families.

Laws in all States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico require the provision of services that will assist families in remedying the conditions that brought the child and family into the child welfare system. The statutes in most States, however, use a broad definition of what constitutes reasonable efforts. Some commonly used terms associated with reasonable efforts include

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“family reunification,” “family preservation,” “family support,” and “preventive services.”¹

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Federal law has long required State agencies to demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made to provide assistance and services to prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from his or her home and make it possible for a child who has been placed in out-of-home care to be reunited with his or her family.²

In many States, the statutes also require that when a determination is made that reunification of the family is not in the best interest of the child, efforts be made to finalize another permanent placement for the child. Under the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), while reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families are still required, the child’s health and safety constitute the paramount concern in determining the extent to which reasonable efforts should be made.³

When Reasonable Efforts Are Not Required

Under the provisions of ASFA, reasonable efforts to preserve or reunify the family are not required when the court has determined that:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, as defined by State law. The definition of aggravated circumstances may include, but need not be limited to, abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed murder of another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.
- The parent has aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such a murder or such voluntary manslaughter.

¹ The specific services provided to the child and the family are specified in a case plan. For more information on the case planning process, see *Case Planning for Families Involved With Child Welfare Agencies* on the Child Welfare Information Gateway website at www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/caseplanning.cfm

² Beginning with the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272).

³ States must comply with the requirements outlined in ASFA as a condition for receiving certain Federal funds.

- The parent has committed a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parental rights of the parent to a sibling of the child have been terminated involuntarily.

The laws in all States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are substantially in compliance with these requirements. In addition, several States and Puerto Rico provide one or more additional grounds for not making reasonable efforts. The following are some examples of these additional grounds:

- The parent has abandoned the child or infant.⁴
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of the child's other parent.⁵
- The child has previously been removed from the home due to abuse or neglect and has been removed due to a subsequent incident of abuse or neglect.⁶
- The parent has been convicted of a sexual offense that resulted in the child's conception.⁷
- The parent has failed to comply with the terms of a reunification plan.⁸
- The parent has been incarcerated for a long term in relation to the child's age, and there is no suitable relative to care for the child.⁹
- The parent suffers from a mental illness of such duration or severity that there is little likelihood that the parent will be able to resume care for the child within a reasonable time.¹⁰

⁴ Abandoning a child is a ground in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. Abandoning an infant is a ground in Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, Washington, and Wisconsin.

⁵ In Alaska, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

⁶ In Alaska, Arizona, California, Kentucky, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Puerto Rico.

⁷ In California, Connecticut, Oklahoma, and Washington.

⁸ In Alaska and Maine.

⁹ In Alaska, Kentucky, New York, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

¹⁰ In Alaska, Arizona, California, Kentucky, Maryland, Utah, and Puerto Rico.

- The parent suffers from chronic abuse of drugs or alcohol and has refused or failed treatment.¹¹

Some other grounds found in just one or two States include:

- The parent has indicated a lack of interest in reunification with the child (California and Puerto Rico).
- The parent has withheld medical treatment or food from the child (Ohio).
- A putative father has failed to establish paternity of the child (Montana and Nevada).
- The parent has allowed the child to be present where a clandestine illegal laboratory is operated (Utah).
- The parent has been found to be a sexually violent predator (Washington).

This publication is a product of the State Statutes Series prepared by Child Welfare Information Gateway. While every attempt has been made to be complete, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as in agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

¹¹ In California, Kentucky, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Puerto Rico.

Alabama

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Ala. Code § 12-15-65(m)

“Reasonable efforts” refer to efforts to preserve and reunify families.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Citation: Ala. Code § 12-15-65(m)

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to the placement of a child in foster care to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the child’s home
- To make it possible for a child to safely return home
- If reunification is not possible, to place the child and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

Citation: Ala. Code § 12-15-65(m)

Reasonable efforts shall not be required when a parent’s parental rights to a sibling have been involuntarily terminated or where a court has determined that a parent has done any of the following:

- Subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, substance abuse, or sexual abuse
- Committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child
- Aided, abetted, attempted, or conspired to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child
- Committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent

Alaska

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.10.086

The department’s responsibilities include the duty to:

- Identify family support services that will assist the parent or guardian in remedying the conduct or conditions in the home that made the child a child in need of aid
- Actively offer the parent or guardian, and refer the parent or guardian to, those services
- Document the actions that are taken by the department

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.10.086

The department shall make timely efforts to provide family support services to the child and parents that are designed to prevent out-of-home placement of the child or to enable the safe return of the child to the family home, when appropriate.

If the child cannot be safely returned home, the department shall make reasonable efforts to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan, and complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Alaska Stat. § 47.10.086**

The court may determine that reasonable efforts are not required if the court has found by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- The parent has subjected the child to circumstances that pose a substantial risk of harm, including abandonment, sexual abuse, torture, chronic mental injury, or chronic physical harm.
- The parent has committed or attempted to commit murder of the other parent of the child, or has committed felony assault that results in serious physical injury.
- The parent has failed, during the preceding 12 months, to participate in family support services.
- The department cannot identify and locate the parent.
- The parent has a mental illness and will be unable to care for the child in the foreseeable future.
- The parent has a previous conviction for a crime involving a child and, after the conviction, the child was returned to the parent and later removed because of an additional substantiated report of physical or sexual abuse.
- A child has suffered substantial physical harm as the result of abuse or neglect by the parent or by a person known to the parent, and the parent knew or reasonably should have known that the person was abusing the child.
- Rights to another child have been previously terminated, and conditions in the home have not been remedied.
- The parent is incarcerated for a substantial period of time during the child's minority.

American Samoa**What Are Reasonable Efforts**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Arizona**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-801**

"Protective services" refer to a specialized child welfare program that is administered by the department to investigate allegations and seek to prevent, intervene in, and treat abuse and neglect to promote the well-being of the child in a permanent home and to coordinate services to strengthen the family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-846**

If the child has been removed from the home, the court shall order the department to make reasonable efforts to provide services to the child and the child's family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-846**

Reunification services are not required if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that one of the following aggravated circumstances exist:

- The parent cannot be identified or located.
- The parent suffers from a mental illness that will likely prevent the parent from resuming care of the child within 12 months.
- The child previously has been removed and adjudicated dependent due to physical or sexual abuse. After the adjudication the child was returned to the custody of the parent and then subsequently removed within 18 months due to additional physical or sexual abuse.
- The child has suffered severe physical or emotional injury by the parent or a person known to the parent.
- A child has been removed from the parent on at least two previous occasions, reunification services were offered or provided after the removal, and the parent is unable to discharge parental responsibilities.
- The parent's rights to another child have been terminated, and the conditions that led to the termination have not been remedied.
- The parent has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, sexual abuse, sexual assault, molestation, or sexual exploitation of a child, or aiding or abetting any such crimes.

Arkansas**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 9-27-303**

"Reasonable efforts" are measures taken to preserve the family and can include reasonable care and diligence on the part of the department or agency to utilize all available services related to meeting the needs of the juvenile and the family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 9-27-303**

Reasonable efforts shall be made:

- Prior to the placement of a child in foster care to prevent the need for removing the child from the child's home
- To reunify a family after a child has been placed out of home to make it possible to return safely home
- To obtain permanency for a child who has been in placement more than 12 months, or 15 of the last 22 months

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 9-27-303**

Reasonable efforts to reunite a child with his or her parent or parents shall not be required in all cases. Reunification shall not be required if a court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent has:

- Subjected the child to aggravated circumstances that may include abandonment, chronic abuse, cruelty, or sexual abuse
- Committed or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of any child
- Committed felony battery or assault to any child that results in serious bodily injury
- Had parental rights terminated to a sibling of the child
- Has abandoned an infant

California**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Welf. & Inst. Code § 361.5**

"Reunification services" are:

- Child welfare services
- Court ordered counseling and other treatment services for the reunification of the child with the child's family

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Welf. & Inst. Code § 361.5**

Reunification services are required whenever a child is removed from a parent's or guardian's custody.

- For a child age 3 or older, services may not be offered for longer than a period of 12 months from the date the child entered foster care.
- For a child under age of 3 years, services may not be offered for longer than a period of 6 months from the date the child entered foster care.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Welf. & Inst. Code § 361.5**

Reunification services need not be provided when the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, any of the following:

- The whereabouts of the parent are unknown.
- The parent has a mental disability that makes him or her incapable of utilizing services.
- There is a prior adjudication of physical or sexual abuse of a child, and after the child was returned home, the child has been removed due to additional physical or sexual abuse.
- The parent caused the death of another child through abuse or neglect.
- The parent has inflicted severe physical or sexual abuse on the child or a sibling.
- The child was conceived as a result of a sexual offense.
- The parent has willfully abandoned the child.
- The parent's rights to another child have been terminated, and conditions that led to the termination have not been remedied.
- The parent has been convicted of a violent felony.
- The parent has a history of chronic use of drugs or alcohol and refused to comply with a treatment program.
- The parent has indicated a lack of interest in reunification services.

Colorado**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-1-103(89)**

“Reasonable efforts” mean the exercise of diligence and care for children who are in out-of-home placement or are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. The term includes supportive and rehabilitative services that are required to prevent unnecessary placement of a child outside of a child’s home or to foster the safe reunification of a child with a child’s family, as described in § 19-3-208.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-1-115**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from the home
- To reunite the child and the family if legal custody has been awarded to the department

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-1-115**

Reasonable efforts are not required to prevent the child’s removal from the home or to reunify the child and the family in the following circumstances:

- The court finds that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, as described in § 19-3-604(1).
- The parental rights of the parent with respect to a sibling of the child have been involuntarily terminated, unless the prior sibling termination resulted from a parent delivering a child to a firefighter or a hospital staff member pursuant to § 19-3-304.5.
- The court finds that the parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent; aiding, abetting, or attempting to commit such crimes; or a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or to another child of the parent.

Connecticut**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Gen. Stat. § 46B-129**

“Reasonable efforts” are services to be provided to the parent and steps the parents may take to address the problem that prevent the child from safely reuniting with the parent.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Gen. Stat. § 46B-129**

The department must make reasonable efforts to keep the child or youth with his or her parents prior to the issuance of an order to remove the child from the home. If the child is removed from the home, reasonable efforts must be made to achieve the goals of the permanency plan.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Gen. Stat. § 17a-111b**

The court, upon clear and convincing evidence, may determine that reasonable efforts are not appropriate if:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances.
- The child has been abandoned.
- The parent has inflicted sexual molestation or exploitation or severe physical abuse or engaged in a pattern of abuse of the child.
- The parent has killed a sibling of the child or committed assault against the child or a sibling that resulted in serious bodily injury.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been involuntarily terminated within the past 3 years.
- The parent was convicted of sexual assault resulting in the conception of the child.

Delaware**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 29, § 9003**

The Division of Family Services will provide family preservation services.

The department must prepare and maintain a written case plan for each child under its supervision or custody that shall include but not be limited to a description of the child's problems, the care and treatment of the child, and any other services to be provided to the child and the child's family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 29, § 9003**

Services will be provided to those families whose children are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement when it is determined that out-of-home placement can be avoided.

Each case plan must be designed to achieve any placement of the child outside of the child's home in the least restrictive setting available and in close proximity to the child's home, consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 1103**

The department is not required to perform, but is not prohibited from performing, reunification and related services, as outlined in Title 29, § 9003, when the grounds for termination of parental rights are those stated below:

- The child has been abandoned.
- The parent has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have:
 - » Committed a felony level offense against a child
 - » Aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit an offense listed above
 - » Committed or attempted to commit the offense of Dealing in Children
 - » Committed the felony level offense of endangering the welfare of a child
- The parent's parental rights over a sibling of the child have been involuntarily terminated in a prior proceeding.
- The parent has subjected the child to torture, chronic abuse, sexual abuse, and/or life-threatening abuse.
- The child has suffered unexplained serious physical injury under such circumstances as would indicate that the injuries resulted from the intentional conduct or willful neglect of the parent.

District of Columbia**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 4-1301.02**

“Family preservation services” mean services for children and families who are at risk of abuse or neglect, or in crisis, including:

- Services designed to help children return to families from which they have been removed, or be placed for adoption or with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be safe and appropriate for the child, in another permanent living arrangement
- Replacement prevention services
- Services that provide follow-up care to families to whom a child has returned after commitment
- Respite care services
- Services designed to improve parenting skills and abilities

“Family support services” mean community-based services to promote the safety and well-being of children and families, and designed to:

- Increase family strength and stability
- Increase parent confidence and competence
- Afford children safe, stable, and supportive family environments
- Enhance child development

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 4-1301.09a**

The agency shall make reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family:

- Prior to the removal of the child from the home to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child
- To make it possible for the child to safely return home
- To place the child in accordance with that plan in order to finalize a permanent placement if return home is inconsistent with the child’s permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 4-1301.09a**

Reasonable efforts to reunify are not required if the parent:

- Subjected the child, a sibling, or other child to cruelty, abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse
- Committed, aided, abetted, solicited, or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of a sibling or other child
- Committed a felony assault against the child, a sibling, or other child
- Had his or her parental rights terminated involuntarily with respect to a sibling

Florida**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.521(1)(f)**

“Reasonable efforts” mean the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the department to provide the services ordered by the court or delineated in the case plan.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.521(1)(f)**

The court shall determine whether reasonable efforts have been made by reviewing:

- Whether or not prevention or reunification services were indicated
- A written description of what appropriate and available efforts were made
- Why further efforts could or could not have prevented or shortened the separation of the parent and child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 39.521(1)(f); 39.806(1)**

A reasonable effort has been made if the appraisal of the home situation indicates the severity of conditions is such that reunification efforts were inappropriate.

Reasonable efforts are not required when the parent is alleged to have committed any of the acts listed as grounds for expedited termination of parental rights in § 39.806(1)(f)-(i):

- The parent has engaged in egregious conduct or had the opportunity and capability to prevent and knowingly failed to prevent egregious conduct that threatens the life, safety, or physical, mental, or emotional health of the child or the child's sibling.
 - » "Sibling" means another child who resides with or is cared for by the parent regardless of whether the child is related.
 - » "Egregious conduct" means abuse, abandonment, neglect, or any other conduct that is deplorable, flagrant, or outrageous by a normal standard of conduct. Egregious conduct may include an act or omission that occurred only once but was of such intensity, magnitude, or severity as to endanger the life of the child.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated child abuse, sexual battery, sexual abuse, or chronic abuse.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child, or a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child, or aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit any crime listed.
- The parental rights of the parent to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.

Georgia**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 15-11-58**

"Reasonable efforts" are measures taken by the Division of Family and Children Services and other appropriate agencies to preserve and reunify families.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 15-11-58**

Reasonable efforts shall be made to preserve and reunify families:

- Prior to placement of a child in the custody of the department to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the child's home
- To make it possible for a child to return safely to the child's home

If continuation of reasonable efforts of the type described above is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 15-11-58**

Reasonable efforts are not required when a court determines that:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances that may include abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.

Guam**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 13304**

A service plan is a specific written plan prepared by Child Protective Services and presented to members of the child's family. The service plan should also include but not necessarily be limited to the specific services or treatment that the parties will be provided and the specific actions the parties must take or specific responsibilities that the parties must assume.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 13304**

The service plan should set forth:

- The steps that will be necessary to facilitate the return of the child to a safe family home if the proposed placement of the child is in foster care or in alternate placement outside of the child's home
- The steps that will be necessary for the child to remain in a safe family home with the assistance of a service plan, if the proposed placement of the child is in a family home under Child Protective Services' supervision
- The steps that will be necessary to make the family home a safe family home and to terminate intervention of Child Protective Services into the family and eliminate, if possible, the necessity for the filing of a petition with the court under this Chapter

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Hawaii**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 587-26**

A service plan is a specific written plan that sets forth the steps that will be necessary to make the family home safe and to terminate the agency's intervention into the family.

The service plan should include steps that are structured and balance the priority, intensity, and quantity of services needed with the family's ability to benefit from those services.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 587-26**

The service plan should include the steps that will be necessary:

- To facilitate the return of the child to a safe family home if the proposed placement of the child is in foster care
- To allow the child to remain in a safe family home with the assistance of a service plan if the proposed placement of the child is in a family home under family supervision
- To make the family home safe and to terminate the agency's intervention into the family and eliminate, if possible, the necessity for the filing of a petition with the court under this chapter

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 587-2; 587-71**

The court need not order a service plan if the court finds that aggravated circumstances are present. "Aggravated circumstances" mean that:

- The parent has committed, aided, attempted, or conspired to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been judicially terminated.
- The parent has tortured the child.
- The child is an abandoned infant.
- A court previously has determined, under § 587-73, in a finding regarding a sibling of the child, that the parent is not willing and able to provide a safe family home.

Idaho**What Are Reasonable Efforts**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Idaho Code §§ 16-1615; 16-1610**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to the placement of the child in out-of-home care, to prevent the removal of the child from the child's home
- To reunify the family in a timely manner in accordance with the case plan
- To complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Idaho Code § 1619(6)(d)**

Reasonable efforts are not required if the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances as determined by the court including, but not limited to:

- The parent has subjected the child to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child or aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such a murder or voluntary manslaughter.
- The parent committed a battery that results in serious bodily injury to a child.
- The parental rights of the parent to a sibling of the child have been terminated involuntarily.

Illinois**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Cons. Stat. Ch. 325, § 5/8.2**

“Family preservation services” refer to all services to help families, including adoptive and extended families, and may include, but is not limited to, homemakers, counseling, family therapy, group therapy, self-help groups, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, vocational counseling and postadoptive services.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Cons. Stat. Ch. 20, § 505/5**

The department shall offer family preservation services to help families, including adoptive and extended families. Such services shall be offered:

- To prevent the placement of children in substitute care when the children can be cared for at home or in the custody of the person responsible for the children's welfare
- To reunite children with their families
- To maintain an adoptive placement

Family preservation services shall only be offered when doing so will not endanger the children's health or safety. The child and his or her family shall be eligible for services as soon as the report of suspected child abuse or neglect is determined to be “indicated.” The department may also provide services to any child or family when the report of suspected abuse or neglect is determined to be unfounded, if the conditions in the child's or family's home are reasonably likely to subject the child or family to future reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Acceptance of such services shall be voluntary.

When a child is placed in foster care, the department shall ensure and document that reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from the child's home. The department must make reasonable efforts to reunify the family when temporary placement of the child occurs unless otherwise required.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Cons. Stat. Ch. 20, § 505/5; Ch. 705, § 405/2-13.1**

When the department believes that further reunification services would be ineffective, it may request a finding from the court that reasonable efforts are no longer appropriate. The court shall grant this motion with respect to a parent of the minor if the court finds after a hearing that the parent has:

- Had his or her parental rights to another child involuntarily terminated
- Been convicted of:
 - » First degree or second degree murder of another child of the parent
 - » Attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit first degree or second degree murder of another child of the parent
 - » Aggravated battery, aggravated battery of a child, or felony domestic battery, any of which has resulted in serious bodily injury to the minor or another child of the parent
 - » An offense in any other State substantially similar to any of the above offenses

The department is not required to provide further reunification services after such a finding.

Indiana**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 31-34-21-5.5**

“Reasonable efforts” refer to measures taken to provide services to preserve and reunify families.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 31-34-21-5.5**

The department shall make reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families as follows:

- If the child has not been removed from the home, to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child
- If the child has been removed from the home, to make it possible for the child to return safely home as soon as possible

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 31-34-21-5.6**

Reasonable efforts to reunite a child with his or her family or to preserve a family are not required when the court finds any of the following:

- A parent has been convicted of causing a suicide, involuntary manslaughter, rape, criminal deviate conduct, child molesting, or exploitation of a victim who is the parent’s child or the child’s other parent.
- A parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of a victim who is the parent’s child or the child’s other parent.
- A parent has been convicted of attempting, aiding, or conspiring to commit any of the above crimes.
- A parent has been convicted of battery, aggravated battery, criminal recklessness, or neglect against a child.
- The parental rights of a parent with respect to a sibling have been involuntarily terminated.
- The child is an abandoned infant.

Iowa**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.102**

“Reasonable efforts” refer to efforts made to preserve and unify a family.

Reasonable efforts may include intensive family preservation services or family-centered services if the child’s safety in the home can be maintained during the time the services are provided.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.102**

Reasonable efforts are required:

- Prior to out-of-home placement of a child in foster care to eliminate the need for removal of the child
- To make it possible for the child to safely return to the family’s home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.102**

If the court determines by clear and convincing evidence that aggravated circumstances exist, the court may waive the requirement for making reasonable efforts. Aggravated circumstances include:

- The parent has abandoned the child.
- The court finds the child in need of assistance based on a finding of physical or sexual abuse or neglect.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated and there is clear and convincing evidence that services will not likely correct the conditions that led to the child's removal from the home within a reasonable time.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child or the attempt to commit either crime.
- The parent has been convicted of a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury of the child or another child of the parent.

Kansas**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 38-1563**

Reasonable efforts may include participation by the child and the parent in programs operated by the secretary or another appropriate individual or agency or counseling sessions, as directed by the court.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 38-1563**

Reasonable efforts must be made to maintain the family unit and prevent unnecessary removal of the child from the child's home.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 38-1563**

The court may order that reasonable efforts are not necessary when:

- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of a child.
- The parent has aided, attempted, or conspired to commit such crime.
- The parent has committed felony battery that resulted in bodily injury to the child or another child.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, sexual abuse, or chronic, life-threatening neglect.
- The parental rights of the parent to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The child has been in extended out-of-home placement, which is defined as 15 of the most recent 22 months.

Kentucky**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 620.020**

"Reasonable efforts" mean the exercise of ordinary diligence and care by the department to utilize all preventive and reunification services available to the community necessary to enable a child to live safely at home.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 620.020**

“Reunification services” are remedial services that are designed to:

- Strengthen the family unit
- Secure reunification of the family and child where appropriate, as quickly as practicable
- Prevent the future removal of the child from the family

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 610.127; 600.020**

Reasonable efforts shall not be required if a court determines that:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including any of the following:
 - » The parent has not had contact with the child for more than 90 days.
 - » The parent is incarcerated for at least 1 year, will be unavailable to care for the child, and there is no appropriate relative to care for the child.
 - » The parent has sexually abused the child and refused available treatment.
 - » The parent has engaged in abuse of the child that required removal two or more times in the last 2 years.
 - » The parent has caused the child serious physical injury.
- The parent has been convicted of having caused the death of another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent has engaged in a pattern of conduct due to alcohol or drug abuse that has rendered the parent incapable of caring for the immediate and ongoing needs of the child, and has refused or failed to complete a treatment plan.
- The parent has a mental illness or retardation that places the child at substantial risk of harm even if services were provided to the parent for 12 months.
- Other circumstances make reasonable efforts inconsistent with the best interests of the child and the permanency plan for the child.

Louisiana**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ch. Code art. 603(17)**

“Reasonable efforts” mean the exercise of ordinary diligence and care by department caseworkers and supervisors and shall assume the availability of a reasonable program of services to children and their families.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ch. Code art. 626; 684**

The court shall determine whether the department has made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his or her home and, after removal, to make it possible for the child to safely return home.

When the child is to be removed from his parents’ custody, the court shall determine whether reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal and what preventive and reunification efforts, or both, were made, and why further efforts could or could not have prevented or shortened the separation of the family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ch. Code art. 672.1**

Efforts to reunify the parent and child are not required if a court has determined that:

- The parent has subjected the child to egregious conduct or conditions, including any of the grounds for termination of parental rights pursuant to Article 1015.
- The parent has committed or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed a felony that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.

Maine**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 22, § 4041(1-A)**

The department shall develop a written rehabilitation plan that includes:

- The services that must be provided to address the problems in the family that present a risk of harm to the child
- Provisions to ensure the safety of the child while the parent engages in those services
- A means to measure the extent to which progress has been made
- Visitation that protects the child's physical and emotional well-being

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 22, § 4036-B**

The department shall make reasonable efforts to:

- Prevent removal of the child from home, unless the court finds the presence of an aggravating factor
- Rehabilitate and reunify the family, as provided in § 4041(1-A), unless the court has ordered that the department need not commence or may cease reunification
- Finalize the permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 22, §§ 4041(A-2); 4002(1-B)**

The court may order that reunification efforts are not required if it finds one of the following:

- The existence of an aggravating factor
- That continuation of reunification efforts is inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child

"Aggravating factor" means any of the following:

- The parent has subjected the child to an aggravated circumstance including rape, gross sexual misconduct, gross sexual assault, sexual abuse, incest, aggravated assault, kidnapping, promotion of prostitution, abandonment, torture, or chronic abuse.
- The parent refused for 6 months to comply with the treatment required in a reunification plan with regard to the child.
- The parent has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, or felony assault and the victim is a child for whom the parent was responsible.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.
- The parent has abandoned the child.

Maryland**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Family Law § 5-525(b)**

The department shall provide time-limited family reunification services to a child placed in an out-of-home placement and to the parent or guardian of the child, in order to facilitate the child's safe and appropriate reunification within a timely manner.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Family Law § 5-525(d)**

Reasonable efforts shall be provided to preserve or reunify a family:

- Prior to an out-of-home placement to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from home
- To make it possible for a child to safely return home
- To finalize a permanent placement for the child if continuation of reasonable efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Courts & Jud. Proc. § 3-812(d)**

A local department may ask the court to find that reasonable efforts to reunify a child with the child's parent or guardian are not required if the local department concludes that a parent or guardian has:

- Subjected the child to chronic abuse, chronic and life-threatening neglect, sexual abuse, or torture
- Been convicted, in any State or any court of the United States, of a crime of violence against the child, a minor offspring of the parent or guardian, or another parent or guardian of the child
- Been convicted of aiding or abetting, conspiring, or soliciting to commit a crime described above
- Involuntarily lost parental rights of a sibling of a child

Massachusetts**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 119, § 29C**

The court shall determine the reasonable efforts to be made, consistent with the best interests of the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 119, § 29C**

Reasonable efforts shall be made:

- Prior to placement to prevent or eliminate the need for removal from the home
- To make it possible for a child to return safely to his or her parent or guardian
- To place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan if reasonable efforts to reunify the child with his or her parent or guardian are inconsistent with the permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 119, § 29C**

Reasonable efforts shall not be required if the court finds:

- The child has been abandoned.
- The parent's rights to another child have been involuntarily terminated.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child or aiding or abetting in the commission of such crime.
- The parent has been convicted of a felony assault resulting in serious bodily injury of the child or another child.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances that may include murder of another parent of the child in the presence of the child, subjecting the child or other children in the home to sexual abuse or exploitation, or severe or repetitive conduct of a physically or emotionally abusive nature.

Michigan**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Comp. Laws § 712A.18f**

Reasonable efforts are measures taken to preserve and reunify the family, and may include:

- Efforts to be made by the parents
- Efforts to be made by the agency
- A schedule of services to be provided, including in-home services
- A schedule of parenting time between the child and the parent, if appropriate

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Comp. Laws § 712A.18f**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent the child's removal from his or her home
- To rectify conditions that caused removal of the child from his or her home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Comp. Laws §§ 712A.19a; 722.638**

Reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family must be made in all cases except if any of the following apply:

- There is a judicial determination that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, as provided in § 722.638, including:
 - » Abandonment of a young child
 - » Criminal sexual conduct involving penetration, attempted penetration, or assault with intent to penetrate
 - » Battering, torture, or other severe physical abuse
 - » Loss or serious impairment of an organ or limb
 - » Life threatening injury
- The parent has been convicted of one or more of the following:
 - » Murder of another child of the parent
 - » Voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent
 - » Aiding or abetting in the murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent, the attempted murder of the child or another child of the parent, or the conspiracy or solicitation to commit the murder of the child or another child of the parent
 - » A felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent
- The parent has had rights to the child's siblings involuntarily terminated.

Minnesota**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 260.012**

Reasonable efforts include:

- Culturally appropriate services by the social services agency
- Appropriate and available services to meet the needs of the child and the child's family
- Services that are relevant to the safety and protection of the child, adequate to meet the needs of the child and family, culturally appropriate, available and accessible, consistent and timely, and realistic under the circumstances

In the case of an Indian child, the responsible social services agency must provide active efforts, as required by the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 260.012**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent placement or eliminate the need for removal
- To reunite the child with the child's family at the earliest possible time
- To finalize the permanent plan for the child when a court determines that reasonable efforts to reunite the child with the parent are not required

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 260.012**

Reasonable efforts are not required when:

- A parent has subjected the child to egregious harm.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The child is an abandoned infant.
- A determination has been made that additional reasonable efforts would be futile and unreasonable under the circumstances.
- A parent has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, or assault with a dangerous weapon with regard to another child.
- The parent has been convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon or assault with a pattern of past abuse with regard to a surviving child.

Mississippi**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 43-15-13(2)**

Reasonable efforts may include services that:

- Protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of children
- Prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems and assisting families in resolving their problems
- Remedy or assist in the solution of problems that may result in the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of children
- Restore to their families children who have been removed, by the provision of services to the child and the families when the child can be cared for at home without endangering the child's health and safety

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 43-15-13(8); 43-21-603(7)**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To maintain the child in the child's home if at all possible
- To reunify the family when temporary placement of the child occurs

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 43-21-603(7)**

Reasonable efforts are not required if the court determines that:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child or felony assault to the child or another child.
- The parental rights of the parent to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- Continuation of the child in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child.

Missouri**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 211.183**

“Reasonable efforts” mean the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the division to utilize all available services related to meeting the needs of the juvenile and the family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 211.183**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for the removal of the child
- After removal, to make it possible for the child to return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 211.183**

The division shall not be required to make reasonable efforts, but has the discretion to make reasonable efforts, if the court has determined that:

- The parent has subjected the child to severe or recurrent acts of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, including an act of incest.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent, or aided, abetted, or attempted such act.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or to another child of the parent.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.

Montana**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-423**

Reasonable efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary protective services agreements
- Development of individual written case plans specifying State efforts to reunify families
- Placement in the least disruptive setting possible
- Provision of services pursuant to a case plan
- Periodic review to ensure timely progress

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-423**

The department shall make reasonable efforts:

- To prevent the necessity of removal of a child from a child's home
- To reunify families that have been separated

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 41-3-423**

Reasonable efforts are not required if a court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a parent has:

- Subjected a child to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, sexual abuse, or chronic, severe neglect
- Committed, aided, abetted, or attempted to commit homicide of a child
- Committed aggravated assault against a child
- Committed neglect of a child that resulted in serious bodily injury or death
- Had parental rights to a sibling terminated involuntarily and circumstances of the termination are relevant to the parent's ability to adequately care for the child at issue

Preservation or reunification services are not required for a putative father if the court finds that the putative father has failed to do any of the following:

- Contribute to the support of the child for an aggregate period of 1 year, although able to do so
- Establish a substantial relationship with the child, as demonstrated by:
 - » Visiting the child at least monthly when physically and financially able to do so
 - » Having regular contact with the child
 - » Manifesting an ability and willingness to assume legal and physical custody of the child if the child was not in the physical custody of the other parent
- Register with the putative father registry, been adjudicated to be the father of the child for the purposes of child support, or been recorded on the child's birth certificate as the child's father

Nebraska**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-532(2)**

When children and families require assistance from a State department or agency, the health and safety of the child is the paramount concern and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide such assistance in the least intrusive and least restrictive method consistent with the needs of the child and to deliver such assistance as close to the home community of the child or family requiring assistance as possible.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-283.01**

Reasonable efforts shall be made:

- Prior to placement to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the juvenile from the home
- To make it possible for the juvenile to safely return home
- To place the juvenile in a timely manner and to finalize a permanent placement if continuation of reasonable efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-283.01**

Reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family are not required if the court has determined that:

- The parent has subjected the juvenile to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child, or aided, abetted, or attempted to commit such crime.
- The parent has committed felony assault resulting in serious bodily injury to the child or another child.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Nevada**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 432B.393**

"Reasonable efforts" have been made if an agency has exercised diligence and care in arranging appropriate and available services for the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 432B.393**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Before placement of the child in foster care to prevent or eliminate the need for removal from the home
- To make it possible to safely return home
- If continuation of reasonable efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan, to place the child in a timely manner and to finalize a permanent placement

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 432B.393**

Reasonable efforts are not required if the court finds:

- A parent has committed, aided, abetted, or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter.
- A parent caused the abuse or neglect of the child or another child that resulted in substantial bodily harm or was so extreme or repetitious as to result in an unacceptable risk to the health and welfare of the child.
- A parent has abandoned the child for 60 days or failed to make more than token contact for 6 months.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily.
- The child or a sibling was previously removed from the home and has been subsequently removed due to additional abuse or neglect.
- The child is less than 1 year old, the father of the child is not married to the mother of the child, and he has failed to visit the child, commence proceedings to establish paternity, or provide support.
- The child under 1 year of age was delivered to a provider of emergency services.

New Hampshire

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 169-C:24-a

“Reasonable efforts” are services to the family that are accessible, available, and appropriate.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 169-C:24-a

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent placement
- To reunify the family
- To make and finalize a new permanent home for the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 169-C:24-a

The State agency shall discontinue reasonable efforts and file a petition for termination of parental rights when any one or more of the following circumstances exist:

- The child has been in an out-of-home placement due to a finding of child neglect or abuse for 12 of the most recent 22 months.
- The court has determined that the child has been abandoned.
- The parent has been convicted of murder of another child of the parent, a sibling or stepsibling of the child, the child’s other parent, or other persons related by consanguinity or affinity, including a minor child who resided with the defendant.
- The parent has been convicted of manslaughter of another child of the parent.
- The parent has been convicted of attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses specified above.
- The parent has been convicted of a felony assault that resulted in injury to the child, a sibling or stepsibling of the child, the child’s other parent, or other persons related by consanguinity or affinity, including a minor child who resided with the defendant.

New Jersey

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 30:4C-15.1

“Reasonable efforts” mean attempts by an agency to assist parents in remedying the circumstances and conditions that led to placement of the child and reinforcing family structure, including:

- Consultation with the parent in developing a plan for appropriate services
- Providing the services agreed upon
- Informing the parent of the child’s progress, development, and health
- Facilitating appropriate visitation

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 30:4C-11.1**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to placement, to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for removing the child from the home
- After placement, to make it possible for the child to safely return home
- In any case where reunification is not the permanency plan, to place the child in a timely manner and finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 30:4C-11.2; 30:4C-11.3**

Reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the family are not required when:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances of abuse, neglect, cruelty, or abandonment.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or manslaughter of a child; aiding, abetting, or attempting to commit such a crime; or committing or attempting to commit an assault resulting in serious bodily injury to a child.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Reasonable efforts to prevent placement are not required when:

- Removal of the child was required due to imminent danger to the child's life, safety, or health.
- Efforts to prevent placement were not reasonable due to risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

New Mexico**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-21**

Reasonable efforts may include:

- An intervention plan designed to achieve placement of the child in the least restrictive setting available, consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child, in close proximity to the parent's home, without causing harm to the child due to separation from his parents, siblings, or any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interest
- Services offered to the child, his or her family, and the foster care family

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-22**

Reasonable efforts shall be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the home
- To preserve and reunify the family
- To implement and finalize the permanency plan in a timely manner when reasonable efforts to reunify are not required

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 32A-4-2; 32A-4-22**

Reasonable efforts are not required when:

- The efforts would be futile.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including causing or attempting to cause great bodily harm to the child; causing or attempting to cause great bodily harm or death to the child's sibling or other parent; or subjecting or attempting to subject the child to torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

New York**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Soc. Serv. Law § 384-b**

"Diligent efforts" shall mean reasonable attempts by an agency to assist, develop, and encourage a meaningful relationship between the parent and child, including:

- Consultation and cooperation with the parents to develop a plan for appropriate services
- Making suitable arrangements for the parent to visit with the child
- Provision of services and other assistance so that problems preventing the child's discharge from care can be resolved
- Informing the parents of the child's progress, development, and health
- Making suitable arrangements with a correctional facility for an incarcerated parent to visit with the child, if such visiting is in the best interests of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Soc. Serv. Law § 358-a**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to placement to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home
- To make it possible for the child to return home
- If the permanent plan for the child is other than reunification, to make and finalize such alternative permanent placement

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Soc. Serv. Law §§ 358-a; 384-b**

Reasonable efforts are not required when a court finds that:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, where the child has been either severely or repeatedly abused.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child, or the attempt to commit such crime and the victim was the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent has been convicted of assault that resulted in serious bodily injury of the child or another child.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The parent has failed to keep the agency apprised of his or her location for a period of 6 months.
- An incarcerated parent has failed to cooperate with agency efforts to assist the parent to plan for the future of the child or to arrange visits with the child.

North Carolina

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 7B-101; 7B-507

“Reasonable efforts” mean:

- The diligent use of preventive or reunification services by a department of social services
- Services or other efforts aimed at returning a juvenile to a safe home or at achieving another permanent plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 7B-101; 7B-507

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for placement of the juvenile out of the home
- To develop and implement a permanent plan for the child when a court determines that the juvenile is not to be returned home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 7B-101; 7B-507

The court may direct that reasonable efforts are not required when:

- Such efforts would clearly be futile or inconsistent with the juvenile’s health, safety, and need for a safe, permanent home within a reasonable period of time.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- The parent’s parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child or has aided, abetted, or attempted to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter of the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.

North Dakota

What Are Reasonable Efforts

Citation: Cent. Code § 27-20-32.2

“Reasonable efforts” mean the exercise of due diligence by the agency to use appropriate and available services to meet the needs of the child and the child’s family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

Citation: Cent. Code § 27-20-32.2

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to placement, to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the home
- After removal, to make it possible for the child to safely return home
- To place the child in a timely manner and to finalize the permanent placement of the child if it is determined that continuation of efforts is inconsistent with the permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Cent. Code §§ 27-20-02; 27-20-32.2**

Reasonable efforts are not required if:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, in which a parent:
 - » Abandons, tortures, chronically abuses, or sexually abuses a child
 - » Fails to make substantial efforts to secure treatment of an addiction, mental illness, or other condition for 1 year or one-half a child's lifetime, whichever time period is less
 - » Engages in deviant sexual acts, sexual abuse, etc., in which the victim is a child
 - » Commits murder, manslaughter, or negligently causing the death of another, or the attempt to commit such crimes
 - » Commits aggravated assault in which the victim suffers serious bodily injury
 - » Commits assault, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment or terrorizing in which a child is the victim or intended victim
 - » Has been incarcerated under a sentence for which the release date is: a) In the case of a child age 9 or older, after the child's majority; or b) in the case of a child under age 9, after the child is twice the child's current age
- The parent has had his or her parental rights to another child terminated involuntarily.

Northern Mariana Islands**What Are Reasonable Efforts**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Ohio**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Code § 2151.419**

"Reasonable efforts" are relevant services provided by the agency to the family of the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Code § 2151.419**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent removal of the child from the home
- To eliminate the continued removal of the child from home
- To make it possible for the child to return safely home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Code § 2151.419**

The court shall determine that reasonable efforts are not required if any of the following apply:

- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child in the household.
- The parent has been convicted of assault, endangering children, rape, sexual battery, corruption of a minor, or sexual imposition of the child or another child in the household.
- The parent has been convicted of conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing, an offense described above.
- The parent has repeatedly withheld medical treatment or food from the child.
- The parent has placed the child at substantial risk of harm two or more times due to drug or alcohol abuse and has rejected treatment two or more times.
- The parent has abandoned the child.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Oklahoma**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7003-5.3**

The agency must identify specific services to be provided to the child, including, but not limited to, educational, vocational, medical, drug or alcohol abuse treatment, or counseling or other treatment services. The agency must also identify the services to be provided to the parent to remediate or alleviate the conditions that led to the adjudication, including services needed to assist the family to provide safe and proper care of the child or to prevent further harm to the child.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7003-5.5(E)**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To provide for the safe return of the child to the child's home
- If reasonable efforts to reunite the family are not feasible, to secure an alternate permanent placement for the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7003-4.6**

Reasonable efforts shall not be required if the court determines based upon competent evidence that:

- The parent has inflicted chronic abuse, chronic neglect, or torture on the child or another child in the household.
- The child or a sibling has previously been removed, returned home, and removed again due to sexual abuse or severe physical abuse.
- The child is an abandoned infant.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent, or the attempt to commit such crime.
- The child has been adjudicated deprived due to a single incident of sexual abuse, severe abuse, or a felonious assault resulting in serious bodily injury.
- The child was conceived as a result of rape.
- The parents have deserted the child for at least 6 months.
- The parents have abandoned the child, and the abandonment constituted a serious danger to the health and safety of the child.
- A child has been in out-of-home care for more than 1 year within a 3-year period.
- The parent has failed to correct the conditions that led to the initial court intervention.
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling have been terminated involuntarily and there has been no reasonable effort on the part of the parent to correct conditions in the home.
- The parent is subject to registration as a sex offender.
- The parent has a history of extensive, abusive, and chronic use of drugs or alcohol and has resisted treatment for a period of 3 years.

Oregon**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.340**

"Reasonable efforts" include preventive and reunification services.

For an Indian child, the department must make active efforts to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.340**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home
- To make it possible for the child to safely return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.340**

The court may find that the department is not required to make reasonable efforts if one of the following circumstances exists:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:
 - » The parent by abuse or neglect has caused the death of any child.
 - » The parent has attempted, solicited, or conspired to cause the death of any child.
 - » The parent by abuse or neglect has caused serious physical injury to any child.
 - » The parent has subjected any child to rape, sodomy, or sexual abuse.
 - » The parent has subjected any child to intentional starvation or torture.
 - » The parent has abandoned the child.
 - » The parent has unlawfully caused the death of the other parent of the child.
- The parent has been convicted in any jurisdiction of one of the following crimes:
 - » Murder or manslaughter of another child of the parent
 - » Aiding, abetting, attempting, conspiring, or soliciting to commit any such crime
 - » Felony assault that results in serious physical injury to the child or another child of the parent
- The parent's rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Pennsylvania**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6373; Tit. 42, § 6351**

Reasonable efforts include:

- Efforts to assist the child and the child's parent
- Preventive services

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 23, § 6373; Tit. 42, § 6351**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home
- To make it possible for the child to return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 42, §§ 6351; 6302**

Reasonable efforts are not required if the court has determined that aggravated circumstances exist and no new or additional efforts are required. "Aggravated circumstances" mean:

- The child is in the custody of a county agency and the identity or location of the parents is unknown and the parent does not claim the child within 3 months or has failed to maintain contact for a period of 6 months.
- The child or another child has been the victim of serious physical abuse, sexual violence, or aggravated physical neglect by the parent.
- The parent has been convicted of any of the following crimes in which the victim was a child: criminal homicide, aggravated assault, rape, statutory sexual assault, indecent assault, or the attempt to commit any such crime.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Puerto Rico**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 8, § 443k**

“Reasonable efforts” refer to the steps taken by the agency to provide services needed by the minor and his or her parent and to make those services available and accessible

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 8, § 443k**

Reasonable efforts must be made to preserve the integrity of the family prior to the removal of a minor from his or her home.

After being removed, efforts shall be made for a period not to exceed 6 months to return the minor safely to his or her home.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 8, § 443k**

No reasonable efforts shall be undertaken under the following circumstances:

- The parent suffers from a mental disability of such magnitude that it prevents the parent from properly caring for the child or from benefiting from the reunification services.
- The child has been previously removed from the home for having been physically harmed or sexually abused, has been returned home, and is again a victim of abuse, including sexual abuse and/or abuse through neglect.
- The parent has been deprived of *patria potestas* regarding other children and has been unable to resolve the problems leading to the loss of *patria potestas*.
- The parent has physically harmed, abused, or neglected the child, putting the child’s health and physical, mental, emotional, and moral integrity at risk.
- The parent has incurred conduct that if criminally prosecuted would constitute a crime against the health and the physical, mental, emotional, and moral integrity of the child.
- The parent has incurred conduct that if criminally prosecuted would constitute attempting, conspiring, soliciting, or prompting the commission of crimes against the health and the physical, mental, emotional, and moral integrity of the child.
- The parent has perpetrated obscene conduct.
- The parent’s efforts to change his or her behavior have not been successful after 6 months of such efforts being undertaken.
- The parent has stated no interest in being reunited with the minor.
- The child is in the legal custody of the department because the parent suffers from chronic abuse of controlled substances and a diagnosis of the condition of the parent indicates that the child can not return to the custody of the parent within 6 months.

Rhode Island**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Gen. Laws § 40-11-12.2**

“Reasonable efforts” are measures taken to preserve and reunify families.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Gen. Laws § 40-11-12.2**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to placement of a child in foster care, to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the home that may include placement of the child with a blood relative or other family member
- To make it possible for the child to safely return home
- If continuation of efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, to place the child in a timely manner and to finalize a permanent placement

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Gen. Laws § 40-11-12.2**

Reasonable efforts are not required if a court determines that:

- The parent has subjected any child to conduct of a cruel and abusive nature.
- The parent has:
 - » Committed murder of another child of the parent
 - » Subjected the child to aggravating circumstances, including abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse
 - » Committed voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent or attempted to commit such crime
 - » Committed a felony assault that results in serious bodily injury of the child or another child of the parent
- The parent's parental rights to a sibling of the child have been terminated involuntarily.

South Carolina**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code §§ 20-7-736; 20-7-763**

"Reasonable efforts" refer to measures made by the department to prevent removal of the child and to preserve and reunify the family. The services provided must be reasonably available and timely, reasonably adequate to address the needs of the family, reasonably adequate to protect the child, and realistic under the circumstances.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 20-7-763**

The family court may rule on whether reasonable efforts to preserve or reunify a family should be required in hearings regarding removal of custody, review of amendments to a placement plan, review of the status of a child in foster care, or permanency planning.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 20-7-763**

The family court may authorize the department to terminate or forego reasonable efforts when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The parent has subjected the child to one or more aggravated circumstances, including severe or repeated abuse or neglect, sexual abuse, torture, or abandonment.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent or of aiding, abetting, or attempting to commit such crime.
- The physical abuse of the child has resulted in the child's death or admission to the hospital for in-patient care, and the abuse is an act for which the parent has been convicted for committing, aiding, abetting, conspiring to commit, or soliciting an offense against the person, criminal domestic violence, or assault and battery.
- The parental rights of the parent to a sibling of the child have been terminated involuntarily.
- Other circumstances exist that the court finds make continuation or implementation of reasonable efforts inconsistent with the permanent plan for the child.

South Dakota**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Laws § 26-8A-21**

"Reasonable efforts" mean the provision by the department of any services or assistance that:

- Are appropriate for the child's parents, including instruction on parenting
- Are available or could be made available without undue financial burden on the department
- Would have a significant likelihood of protecting the child from substantial danger to the child's physical health or from severe emotional damage while enabling the child to remain in the home or to be returned to the home

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Laws § 26-8A-21**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to removal of an alleged or adjudicated abused or neglected child to prevent or eliminate the need for removal from the home
- If the child has been removed from the home, to make it possible to return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Laws § 26-8A-21.1**

Reasonable efforts to reunify are not required when the parent:

- Has committed murder, manslaughter, rape, incest, sexual exploitation of a minor, or abuse or cruelty to a minor
- Committed aggravated assault against the child or another child of the parent
- Has subjected the child or another child to torture, sexual abuse, abandonment for at least 6 months, chronic physical, mental or emotional injury, or chronic neglect
- Is incarcerated and unavailable to care for the child during a significant period of the child's minority
- Has had parental rights to another child terminated involuntarily
- Has a documented history of abuse or neglect associated with chronic alcohol or drug abuse
- Has exposed the child to or demonstrated an inability to protect the child from substantial harm or the risk of substantial harm, and the child or another child has been removed from the parent's custody because he or she was adjudicated abused and neglected by a court on at least one previous occasion
- Has exposed the child to or demonstrated an inability to protect the child from substantial harm or the risk of substantial harm, the child has been removed from the parent's custody on two separate occasions, and the department offered or provided family services on each of the two separate occasions the child was removed
- Has exposed the child to or demonstrated an inability to protect the child from substantial harm or risk of harm resulting from a crime, act, or omission listed above

Tennessee**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 37-1-166**

"Reasonable efforts" mean the exercise of reasonable care and diligence by the department to provide services related to meeting the needs of the child and the family

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 37-1-166**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent the need for removal of the child from the child's family
- To make it possible for the child to return home
- If continuation of reasonable efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 36-1-102(9); 37-1-166**

Reasonable efforts shall not be required if a court has determined that:

- The parent has subjected the child or any child in the household to aggravated circumstances, including abandonment, aggravated assault, kidnapping, severe child abuse, sexual exploitation of a minor, rape, or incest.
- The parent has committed murder or manslaughter of any sibling or other child residing in the household, or aided, abetted, or attempted such crime.
- The parent has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or other child residing in the household.
- The parental rights of the parent to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Texas**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Family Code § 262.001**

In determining the reasonable efforts that are required to be made with respect to preventing or eliminating the need to remove a child from the child's home or to make it possible to return a child to the child's home, the child's health and safety are the paramount concerns.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Family Code §§ 262.001; 262.2015**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need to remove a child from the child's home
- To make it possible for the child to return home
- To finalize the permanent placement of a child for whom the court has made a finding that reasonable efforts to return the child home are not required

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Family Code § 262.2015**

The court may waive the requirement to make reasonable efforts if the court finds that the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances:

- The parent abandoned the child without a means of identifying the child.
- The child is a victim of serious bodily injury or sexual abuse inflicted by the parent or another person with the parent's consent.
- The parent has committed murder or manslaughter of a child, indecency with a child, sexual assault, aggravated assault, injury to a child, abandoning or endangering a child, prohibited sexual conduct, sexual performance by a child, or possession or promotion of child pornography.
- The parent voluntarily left the child alone or in the possession of another person for at least 6 months without expressing the intent to return and without providing adequate support for the child.
- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily based on a finding that the parent's conduct violated § 161.001(1)(D) or (E) [knowingly placing or allowing the child to remain in conditions or surroundings, or with persons engaged in conduct, that endanger the child's physical or emotional well-being].
- The parent has been convicted for the murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child, or aiding, abetting, or attempting such crime.
- The parent has been convicted of a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury of the child or another child of the parent.
- The parent's parental rights with regard to two other children have been involuntarily terminated.

Utah**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 78-3a-311**

"Reasonable efforts" mean services provided to the child and the child's parent for the purpose of facilitating reunification of the family, for a specified period of time.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 62A-4a-203; 78-3a-311**

Because removal of a child from his or her home affects protected, constitutional rights of the parent and has a dramatic, long-term impact on a child, the division shall:

- When possible and appropriate, without danger to the child's welfare, make reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of a child from the child's home prior to placement in substitute care
- Determine whether there is substantial cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or is in danger of abuse or neglect prior to removing the child from his or her home
- When it is possible and appropriate, make reasonable efforts to make it possible for a child in substitute care to return to his or her home
- If, at any time, continuation of reasonable efforts to reunify a minor is determined to be inconsistent with the final permanency plan for the child, take measures, in a timely manner, to place the child in accordance with the permanency plan and complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 78-3a-311**

In cases where obvious sexual abuse, abandonment, or serious physical abuse or neglect is involved, the division has no duty to make reasonable efforts to attempt to rehabilitate the offending parent.

Reasonable efforts are not required if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that any of the following circumstances exist:

- The whereabouts of the parents are unknown.
- The parent is suffering from a mental illness of such magnitude that it renders the parent incapable of utilizing reunification services.
- The child was previously adjudicated as an abused child due to physical or sexual abuse, was removed from the custody of the parent, subsequently returned to the parent, and is being removed due to additional physical or sexual abuse.
- The parent:
 - » Caused the death of another minor through abuse or neglect
 - » Committed, aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit murder or manslaughter of a child or child abuse homicide
- The child suffered severe abuse by the parent or by any person known by the parent, and the parent knew or reasonably should have known that the person was abusing the child.
- The child is adjudicated an abused child as a result of severe abuse by the parent, and the court finds that it would not benefit the child to pursue reunification services with the offending parent.
- The parent's rights are terminated with regard to any other child.
- The child is removed from the child's home on at least two previous occasions and reunification services were offered or provided to the family at those times.
- The parent has abandoned the child for a period of 6 months or longer.
- The parent permitted the child to reside, on a permanent or temporary basis, at a location where the parent knew or should have known that a clandestine laboratory operation was located.
- The court finds that there are other circumstances that should preclude reunification efforts or services.

Vermont**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 5515****When Reasonable Efforts Are Required****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, §§ 5515; 5531**

Reasonable efforts must be made to prevent unnecessary removal of the child from the home. In cases involving a child who has been removed from the home, reasonable efforts must be made to finalize the permanency plan for the child. Reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan may consist of:

- When the permanency plan for the child is reunification, efforts to reunify the child and family following the child's removal from the home
- When the permanency plan for the child does not include reunification, efforts to arrange and finalize an alternate permanent living arrangement for the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 33, § 5515**

When making the reasonable efforts determination, the court may find that no services were appropriate or reasonable considering the circumstances. If the court makes written findings that aggravated circumstances are present, the court may make, but shall not be required to make, written findings as to whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal of the child from the home. Aggravated circumstances may include:

- The parent has subjected a child to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or manslaughter of a child.
- The parent has been convicted of a felony crime that results in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parental rights of the parent with respect to a sibling have been terminated.

Virgin Islands**What Are Reasonable Efforts**

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Virginia**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 16.1-281**

Reasonable efforts may include:

- Programs, care, services, and other support offered to the child and parents
- Participation and conduct to be sought from the child's parents
- Visitation and other contact between the child and the parents

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 16.1-281**

Reasonable efforts must be made to return the child to his parents within the shortest practicable time.

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 16.1-281**

Reasonable efforts to reunite the child with a parent are not required if the court finds that:

- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The parent has been convicted of murder or voluntary manslaughter, or an attempt to commit such offense, if the victim was a child of the parent or the other parent of the child.
- The parent has been convicted of felony assault resulting in serious bodily injury, or felony sexual assault, if the victim was a child of the parent.
- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances that may include torture, chronic or severe abuse, or chronic or severe sexual abuse.

Washington**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Rev. Code § 13.34.130**

Reasonable efforts are preventive services offered or provided to the child and the child's parent.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Rev. Code § 13.34.130**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent or eliminate the need for the removal of the child from the home
- To make it possible for the child to return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Rev. Code § 13.34.132**

Reasonable efforts are not required when there are aggravated circumstances. In determining whether aggravated circumstances exist by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence, the court shall consider one or more of the following:

- Conviction of the parent of rape, criminal mistreatment, or assault of the child
- Conviction of the parent of murder, manslaughter, or homicide by abuse of the child's other parent, sibling, or another child
- Conviction of the parent of attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit any of the above crimes
- A finding by a court that a parent is a sexually violent predator
- Failure of the parent to complete a treatment plan where such failure has resulted in a prior termination of parental rights to another child and the parent has failed to effect significant change in the interim
- Abandonment of an infant under 3 years of age
- Conviction of the parent of a sex offense or incest when the child is born of the offense

West Virginia**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Code § 49-6-5**

"Reasonable efforts" are measures taken by the department to provide remedial and reunification services.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 49-6-5**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To preserve the family and to prevent placement
- To eliminate the need for removing the child from the child's home
- To make it possible for the child to safely return home

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Code § 49-6-5**

The department is not required to make reasonable efforts to preserve the family if the court determines:

- The parent has subjected the child, another child of the parent, or any other child residing in the same household to aggravated circumstances that include, but are not limited to, abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of the child's other parent, another child of the parent, or any other child residing in the same household.
- The parent has attempted or conspired to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter or been an accessory before or after the fact to either such crime.
- The parent has committed a felonious assault that results in serious bodily injury to the child, the child's other parent, another child of the parent, or any other child residing in the same household.
- The parental rights of the parent to another child have been terminated involuntarily.

Wisconsin**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.355**

Reasonable efforts shall include, but not be limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment of the family's situation
- Financial assistance to the family, if applicable
- Provision of services, including in-home support and intensive treatment services, community support services, or specialized services for family members with special needs

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.355**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- To prevent the removal of the child from the home
- To return the child safely to the child's home
- To achieve the goal of the child's permanency plan

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.355**

Reasonable efforts are not required if the court finds any of the following:

- The parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances, that may include abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, and sexual abuse.
- The parent has committed, has aided or abetted the commission of, or has solicited, conspired, or attempted to commit, intentional homicide, reckless homicide, or felony murder, and the victim is a child of the parent.
- The parent has committed battery, sexual assault, sexual assault of a child, or physical child abuse that resulted in great or substantial bodily harm to the child or another child of the parent.
- The parental rights of the parent to another child have been involuntarily terminated.
- The parent has relinquished custody of the child when the child was 72 hours old or younger.

Wyoming**What Are Reasonable Efforts****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 14-3-440**

Reasonable efforts require services to the family that are accessible, available, and appropriate.

When Reasonable Efforts Are Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 14-3-440**

Reasonable efforts must be made:

- Prior to placement of the child outside the home to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the child's home
- To make it possible for the child to safely return home
- If continuation of reasonable efforts is determined to be inconsistent with the permanency plan for the child, to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child

When Reasonable Efforts Are NOT Required**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 14-2-309(c)**

Evidence that reasonable efforts have been made to preserve and reunify the family is not required in any case in which the court determines by clear and convincing evidence that:

- The parent's parental rights to another child have been terminated involuntarily.
- The parent abandoned, chronically abused, tortured, or sexually abused the child.
- Other aggravating circumstances exist indicating that there is little likelihood that services to the family will result in successful reunification.